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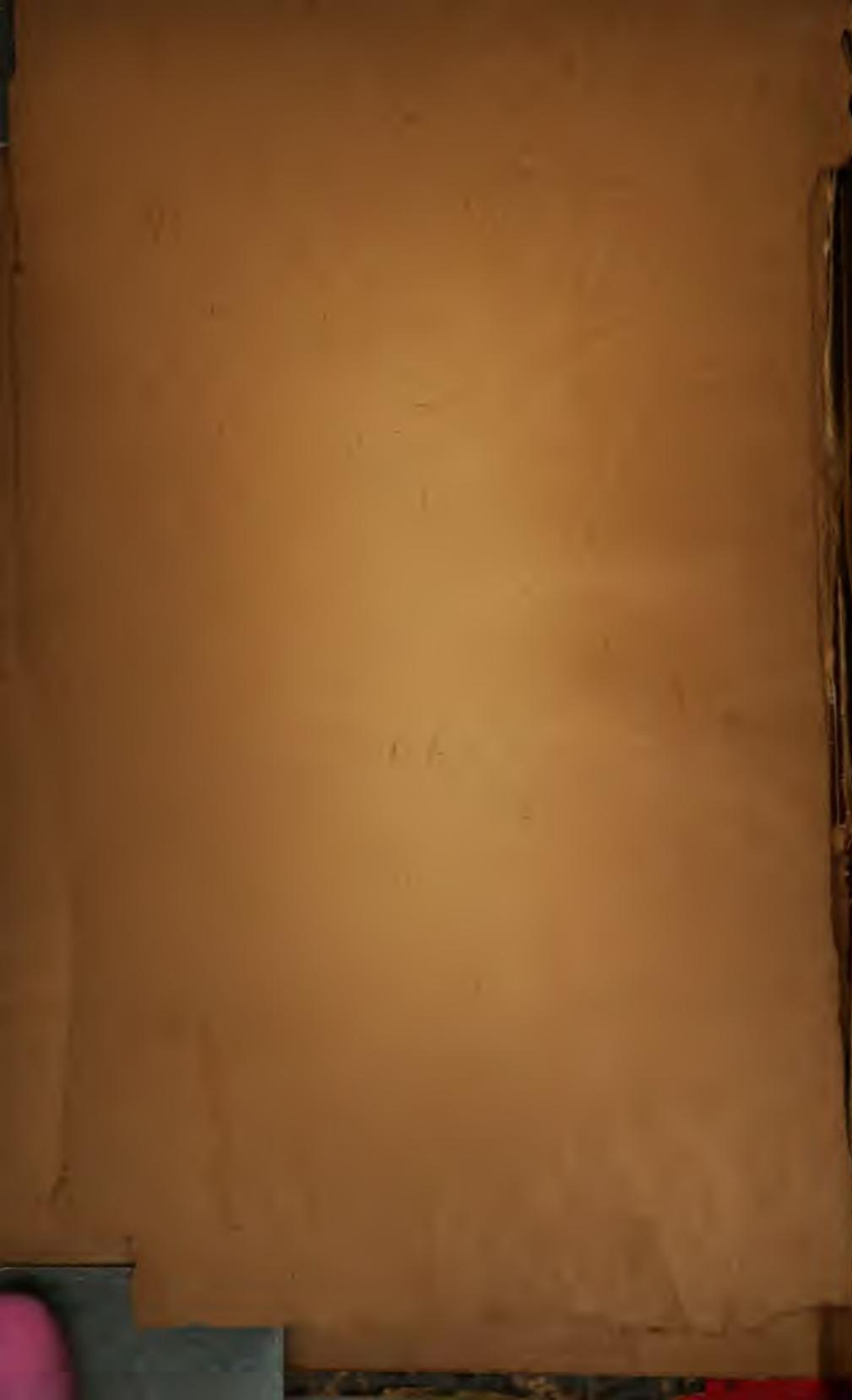
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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

1896

These were placed by order of  
the Queen Dowager, Victoria and  
written by the late Queen Dowager,

## SOME RECOLLECTIONS

They were transmitted to many of the  
late King's personal Friends.

OR

1837

## THE LAST DAYS OF

His Late Majesty

KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH.

[Editor's Name]

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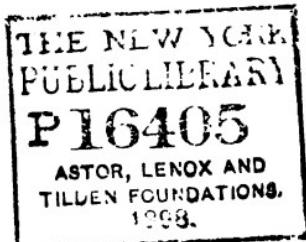
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1837.

C K

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THOUGH a slight decline of strength had been perceptible to the immediate attendants of our lamented King, at the commencement of the year, yet it was not till the month of May, that the state of His Majesty's health excited any serious apprehensions. On the 17th of that month, His Majesty held a levee, but on his return to Windsor Castle, showed great signs of debility and exhaustion, and oppression of breathing, in consequence of which he had considerable difficulty in ascending the staircase; and when he had reached the corridor, was under the necessity of resting on the nearest sofa.

Though the King had experienced very considerable oppression during the night, yet His Majesty appeared refreshed, and was considered better the next morning, Thursday, May 18, and was not prevented from going to St. James's to hold a drawing-room, which had been appointed for that day. On these occasions, the last on which His Majesty appeared in public, he sat down; but this deviation from his usual practice did not excite so much alarm as the traces of sickness visible in his countenance. His debility, however, notwithstanding the exertions of the day, on reaching Windsor Castle, was not so great on this as on the preceding evening, and a slight improvement the following morning revived the hopes and spirits of His Majesty's anxious friends.

This day, Friday, May 18, was the anniversary of the battle of La Hogue, and by com-

mand of His Majesty several officers of distinction resident in the neighbourhood, together with the field officers of the garrison, had been invited to dinner. In the course of the evening, the King detailed, with great minuteness, the causes, progress, and consequences of the different naval wars in which this country had been engaged, during the last and the preceding century, and gave, perhaps, greater proof on that than on any other occasion of the extraordinary accuracy of his memory, and of his intimate acquaintance with English history. His Majesty's voice, with the exception of one or two moments of oppression of breathing, was very strong and clear, but no one present could fail to entertain apprehensions as to the effects of this exertion.

The next day, Saturday, May 20, His Majesty continued to suffer from the same

distressing symptoms. At breakfast and luncheon, his appetite, which had been gradually declining, altogether failed, and at the latter meal, he fell back in his chair with a sensation of faintness, to which several persons alluded with strong expressions of alarm. His Majesty, on leaving the white drawing-room, sat down in the corridor, evidently feeble and exhausted. He did not leave the castle this afternoon. At dinner, His Majesty was affected by a similar seizure, and to prevent increasing faintness, the Duchess of Gloucester, who was seated next to him, bathed his forehead and temples with eau-de-cologne. His Majesty rallied in the evening, but it was not till ten o'clock that he consented, in compliance with the Queen's request, to abandon his intention of going to St. James's, the following morning, to be

present at the re-opening of the Chapel Royal.

The King retired to bed at his usual hour of eleven, labouring under manifest indisposition. This was the last time His Majesty appeared in the drawing-room. The next morning, increasing indisposition confined him to his private apartments, which he never quitted during the continuance of his fatal malady.

The state of His Majesty's health now excited much and well-founded alarm. Sir H. Halford and Dr. Chambers were sent for; but as the latter had no ostensible situation in the Royal household, it was thought advisable, in order to avoid causing any unnecessary alarm to the King, to introduce him to His Majesty as the medical attendant of the Queen, who had at this time but very imperfectly recovered from a long and dan-

gerous illness, on the ground that he wished to make a report of Her Majesty's health. Dr. Chambers was most graciously received by the King, who did not hesitate to avail himself of his advice in his own case. The arrival, however, of Dr. Chambers at the Castle was so late, that this interview did not take place till the following morning.

It were needless to trace minutely the progress of the King's disease, the fluctuating nature of which produced constant alternations of hope and fear. On Monday, May 22, and the following morning, the King gave audience to Lord Melbourne, Lord Hill, Lord Glenelg, and other ministers, but the unfavourable impression produced by the King's appearance on all who were admitted to his presence served but to extend the alarm now generally entertained.

The next two days were passed uncomfortably from the effects of this fatigue; but on Saturday, May 27, His Majesty felt sufficiently strong to hold a Council, and subsequently to give audience to all the Cabinet Ministers and officers of state, by whom it was attended. That the King's debility had already made very rapid and alarming progress, may be inferred from the fact that he had already lost the power of walking, and that it was now necessary for his medical attendant, Dr. Davies, to whom alone the King would entrust that duty, to wheel His Majesty in an easy chair into the council-room.

The general languor and weakness which so strongly characterised the King's illness, though not aggravated by this exertion, did not diminish during the next week, and His Majesty's anxious relatives and friends were willing, in the absence of any very active

disease, to ascribe the continuance of these distressing symptoms to the hot weather which then prevailed, and which had frequently been known to produce at this season in former years a very marked effect on His Majesty's constitution.

The King had looked forward with pleasure to the assembling of a large party, which he had invited to Windsor Castle to be present at the Eton regatta on June 5, and at the Ascot races, which immediately followed.

In the afternoon of this day an unfavourable change in the King's state was evident to his attendants. With his usual benevolent feeling, however, he still, for the sake of others, took an interest in those amusements in which he could not personally participate. Every order issued by the King bore evidence of his very kind consideration, even in the

most minute particulars, for the comfort and convenience of his guests, and of the Eton boys, whose pleasure he was always anxious to promote.

Influenced by a similar feeling so predominant in His Majesty's character, and so remarkably exemplified in the closing years of his life, the King expressed his special desire that the Queen should attend the races at Ascot—preferring rather to dispense with the great comfort of Her Majesty's society than that the public should experience any disappointment from the absence of the Royal Family. However little in accordance with the painful state of her own anxious feelings such a scene might be, the Queen did not hesitate to acquiesce in His Majesty's wishes. Her Majesty, therefore, drove to the course, but returned at the end of two hours to Windsor Castle, to resume

her almost unceasing attendance on the King, and to find alas! that even in that brief interval His Majesty had undergone much and unexpected suffering.

The next morning, Wednesday, June 7th, Sir H. Halford and Dr. Chambers found the King weaker, but cordials supplied temporary strength and power to take nourishment, which supported him during the day.

Nevertheless, the greatest gloom, and even the most melancholy forebodings, pervaded the party assembled in the castle, which were distressingly manifested, as it will doubtless with pain be remembered, by all who were present at dinner on that day in St. George's Hall.

For some time previously, the King's medical attendants had indulged the sanguine hope that His Majesty might derive considerable benefit from change of air. Many

circumstances had conspired to prevent an earlier proposal of any plan which had reference to this object; but with the concurrence of the physicians, Sir Herbert Taylor this day submitted to His Majesty their wish that he should remove for a few weeks to Brighton, where, with the advantage of the sea air, he would enjoy every comfort requisite in his present enfeebled state. The King did not, as it was feared, express any disapprobation at the suggestion,—on the contrary, he assented with pleasure to the arrangement, and expressed his hope that he might soon regain sufficient strength to undertake the journey. Preparations were accordingly made by His Majesty's command at the Pavilion. The kindness of the King's disposition was displayed even in the selection of the persons whom he appointed to attend him.

The state of His Majesty's health next morning (rendered worse by a sleepless night) was such as to damp any hope that might have been entertained with regard to his removal to Brighton. Increased difficulty of breathing, stoppage of the circulation, with the necessary consequences of coldness of the extremities and swelling of the legs, were among the symptoms which could not fail to excite the fear that the King's situation had now become one of extreme danger. Under these circumstances, the party staying in the castle dispersed this morning, Thursday, June 8th, in obedience to the Queen's wishes; and while grief and despondency reigned within the palace, the same feelings were quickly propagated among an affectionate and loyal people, by the unexpected absence of the royal cortége from Ascot.

Contrary to expectation, the King passed a tranquil night. He was easier the next morning, but appeared very languid and feeble while transacting business with Sir Herbert Taylor, and his signatures of official papers were made with difficulty. His Majesty now, for the first time, consented that a bulletin should be issued, to allay, if possible, the anxiety which the public had long manifested. In the afternoon of this day His Majesty experienced great and instantaneous relief from medicines which produced very copious expectoration. The amendment was so decided and evident as to inspire the hope that it might be more than temporary, and His Majesty was certainly enabled to pass the ensuing day without any distressing oppression of his breathing.

For this alleviation of the pain, as well as

for the more tranquil rest, which he enjoyed during two successive nights, the gratitude to the Almighty felt and expressed by His Majesty was truly edifying. He was frequently heard to give utterance to these sentiments, with eyes raised to Heaven, in the most sincere and unaffected terms. His patience and cheerfulness had at all times excited the astonishment and admiration of all who had opportunity of witnessing them. No murmur ever escaped his lips, and often, in moments of the greatest suffering, (which was subsequently proved to have far exceeded what his physicians had reason to suspect,) he testified his grateful sense of the care and attention of all who approached him, and his regret that he should be the cause of imposing on them the duty of so much painful attendance.

At no period, from the commencement of

his attack, had His Majesty been insensible to his critical state; but when he alluded to the subject, it was evident that any anxiety which he felt arose less from personal apprehension than from solicitude for the country, and from a contemplation of the embarrassment into which it might possibly be thrown by his early dissolution. It was to such reflections as these that His Majesty gave expression on the morning of the 16th, when he observed to the Queen, "I have had some quiet sleep; come and pray with me, and thank the Almighty for it." Her Majesty joined in this act of heartfelt devotion, and when the King had ceased, said, "And shall I not pray to the Almighty that you may have a good day?" To which His Majesty replied, "Oh, do! I wish I could live ten years, for the sake of the country. I feel it my duty to keep well as long as I can."

On the morning of Sunday, 11th, grateful for the blessing of some refreshing rest which he had enjoyed, His Majesty's mind was impressed with the most pure devotional feeling. Seeing Lady Mary Fox occupied with a book, he inquired what she was reading, and being told that it was a Prayer Book, his countenance beamed with pleasure, but he said nothing. After a considerable lapse of time, the Queen asked whether it would be agreeable to him if she read the prayers to him. His Majesty answered, "O yes ! I should like it very much ; but it will fatigue you." He then desired to be informed who preached that morning in the chapel of the castle, and when Lady Mary had ascertained and told him that it was Mr. Wood who preached, he directed that he might be sent for.

When Mr. Wood entered the room, the

King said, "I will thank you, my dear sir, to read all the prayers till you come to the prayer for the church militant." By which words His Majesty intended to include the Communion service, and all the other parts of the Liturgy used in the celebration of public worship.

It was equally an affecting and an instructive lesson to observe the devout humility of His Majesty, fervently dwelling, as could be perceived from his manner and the intonation of his voice, on every passage which bore even the most remote application to his own circumstances. His mind seemed quite absorbed in the duty in which he was engaged, and to rise for a time superior to his bodily infirmities; for during the whole service his attention was undisturbed, and he experienced none of those fits of coughing and oppression which for some days past

had formed an almost uninterrupted characteristic of his complaint. As Mr. Wood withdrew, His Majesty graciously expressed his thanks, and afterwards said to the Queen, “ It has been a great comfort to me.”

Nor was this a transitory feeling. To this pure and scriptural source of spiritual consolation His Majesty recurred with unfeigned gratitude; and on each day of the ensuing week did Lord Augustus Fitzclarence receive the King’s commands to read to him the prayers either of the Morning or Evening Service. On one of these occasions, when His Majesty was much reduced and exhausted, the Queen, fearful of causing any fatigue to him, inquired hesitatingly, whether, unwell as he was, he should still like to have the prayers read to him. He replied, “ O yes ! beyond everything.” Though very languid and disposed to sleep, from the ef-

fects of medicine, His Majesty repeated all the prayers.

The fatal progress of the King's complaint was very visible during the three following days, June 12th, 13th, 14th. Nevertheless on Tuesday, the 13th, His Majesty gave audience to his Hanoverian minister, Baron Ompteda, whom, contrary to the suggestions of his attendants, he had specially summoned on business connected with that kingdom, in the welfare of which he had never ceased to feel a truly paternal interest. On the Wednesday, 14th, His Majesty received a visit from the Duke of Cumberland.

The King's attention to his religious duties, and the great comfort which was inspired by their performance, have already been referred to. It will therefore create no surprise that His Majesty joyfully assented to the Queen's suggestion, that he should re-

ceive the sacrament, or that he at once named the Archbishop of Canterbury as the person whom he wished to administer that holy rite. Sunday was the day fixed by the King for the discharge of this solemn duty ; and a message was accordingly sent to His Grace, desiring his presence at Windsor Castle on the ensuing Saturday.

The two intervening days were a period of great suffering to the King, whose illness more than once in that interval assumed a most alarming form, and in the evening of Friday excited apprehensions of His Majesty's immediate dissolution. The next morning, however, the King felt easier, and the most urgent symptoms had disappeared. In the usual course of business with Sir H. Taylor, he signed two public documents, though not without difficulty ; but on every subject which was brought before him, His

Majesty's power of perception was quick and accurate, and he anticipated with pleasure and thankfulness the approaching sacred duty of the morrow.

On the morning of Sunday, the 18th, though His Majesty's mental energies remained vigorous and unimpaired, a greater degree of bodily weakness was perceptible. He raised himself in his chair with greater difficulty than the day before, and required more aid and support in every movement. The expression of his countenance, however, was perhaps more satisfactory. ( He transacted some business with Sir H. Taylor, and affixed his signature to four documents—the remission of a court-martial, two appointments of colonial judges, and a free pardon to a condemned criminal.) This was His Majesty's last act of sovereignty. Increasing debility prevented the repetition of a similar

exertion, and thus, in the closing scene of his life, was beautifully and practically exemplified by an act of mercy, that spirit of benevolence and forgiveness which shone with such peculiar lustre in His Majesty's character, and was so strongly reflected in the uniform tenour of his reign.

It had been arranged, as has been already remarked, that the King should on this day receive the sacrament from the hands of the Archbishop of Canterbury; and when Sir Herbert left the room, it appeared to the Queen that the most favourable time had arrived. The physicians, however, suggested to Her Majesty the expediency of deferring the ceremony till the King should have in some degree recovered from his fatigue; but His Majesty had already experienced the blessed consolations of religion, and removed the doubts which his anxious attendants

were entertaining, by eagerly desiring the Queen to send for the Archbishop ; seeming, as it were, anxious to ratify the discharge of his earthly, by the performance of his spiritual, duties. His Grace promptly attended, attired in his robes, and at a quarter to eleven administered the sacrament to His Majesty and the Queen ; Lady Mary Fox communicating at the same time. The King was very calm and collected—his faculties were quite clear, and he paid the greatest attention to the service, following it in the Prayer Book which lay on the table before him. His voice, indeed, failed, but his humble demeanour and uplifted eye gave expression to the feelings of devotion, and of gratitude to the Almighty, which his faltering lips refused to utter.

The performance of this act of religion, and this public attestation of his communion

with that church, for the welfare and prosperity of which he had more than once during his illness ejaculated short but fervent prayers, was the source of great and manifest comfort to His Majesty. Though the shorter form had been adopted by the Archbishop, His Majesty was, nevertheless, rather exhausted by the duration and solemnity of the ceremony ; but as his Grace retired, the King said, with that peculiar kindness of manner by which he was so much distinguished, and at the same time gently waving his hand and inclining his head, “God bless you—a thousand, thousand thanks !” There cannot be more certain evidence of the inward strength and satisfaction which the King derived from this office of religion, than that in spite of great physical exhaustion, His Majesty, after the lapse of an hour, again requested the attendance of the Arch-

bishop, who, in compliance with the wishes of the Queen, read the Prayers for the Evening Service, with the happiest effect on the King's spirits. This being done, the Archbishop, naturally fearing the consequences of so much mental exertion on His Majesty's debilitated frame, was about to retire, when the King motioned to him to sit down at the table, on the opposite side of which he himself was seated. His Majesty was too weak to hold any conversation, but his spirits seemed soothed and comforted by the presence of the Archbishop, on whose venerable and benign countenance His Majesty's eye reposed with real pleasure. The King at this interview stretched his hand across the table, and taking that of the Archbishop, pressed it fervently, saying, in a tone of voice which was audible only to the Queen, who was seated near to His Majesty, " I am

sure the Archbishop is one of those persons who pray for me." The afternoon of this day witnessed a still further diminution of His Majesty's strength ; but in proportion to the decay of his bodily powers was the increase of his spiritual hope and consolation. At nine o'clock in the evening, the Archbishop was again summoned by His Majesty's desire. The King was now still less able to converse than on the last occasion ; but his Grace remained more than three-quarters of an hour, supplying by his presence the same comfort to the King, and receiving from His Majesty the same silent though expressive proofs of his satisfaction and gratitude. At length, on the suggestion of the Queen, that it was already late, and the Archbishop might become fatigued, the King immediately signified his assent that he should retire, and crossing his hands

upon his breast, and inclining his head, said, as his Grace left the room, “ God bless thee, dear, excellent, worthy man ! a thousand, thousand thanks.”

The whole course of His Majesty’s illness affords abundant proof, not only of his composure, his patience, and his resignation, but that even when under the pressure of great pain and suffering, his mind, far from being absorbed with the sad circumstances of his own situation, was often dwelling on subjects connected either with the affairs of the country, or with the comfort and convenience of individuals.

His Majesty rose this morning with the recollection that this was the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo. As early as half-past eight, he alluded to the circumstance, and said to Dr. Chambers, “ Let me but live over this memorable day, I shall never live

to see another sunset." Dr. Chambers said,  
" I hope your Majesty may live to see many."  
To which His Majesty replied in a phrase  
which he commonly employed, but the pecu-  
liar force of which those only who had the  
honour of being frequently admitted into  
His Majesty's society, can fully appreciate,—  
" O ! that is quite another thing."\* A  
splendid entertainment, as is well-known,  
has been always given on this day to the  
officers engaged in that glorious action, and  
since his accession to the throne, His  
Majesty had himself honoured it with his  
presence.

Under the present circumstances, the Duke,  
naturally feeling unwilling to promote any  
scene of festivity, had sent Mr. Greville to

\* It was usually employed by His Majesty to express his  
dissent or incredulity with regard to any subject under dis-  
cussion.

request the King's commands, or at least to ascertain the wishes and opinion of the Queen. Previous to the flag, annually presented by his Grace, being deposited in the guard-chamber, it had been brought to His Majesty, who laying his hand upon it, and touching the eagle, said, "I am glad to see it. Tell the Duke of Wellington that I desire his dinner may take place to-morrow : I hope it will be an agreeable one."

In the course of the night, the Queen observed to His Majesty, that the Archbishop had only been invited to stay till the following day—that his Grace wished to be honoured with his commands—and that he had expressed himself not only willing but anxious to remain as long as his services could be either acceptable or useful to him. The King immediately said, "Yes ; tell him to stay. It will be the greatest blessing of God

to hear that beautiful service read by him once more ;” alluding to the Liturgy of the Church of England, from the frequent use of the prayers of which His Majesty had been so much comforted and supported in his illness.

Monday, June 19th.—Though His Majesty passed a tolerably tranquil night, yet no corresponding effect was produced upon his health. Decaying nature could no longer be recruited by the ordinary sources of strength and sustenance. His Majesty, however, rose at seven, for he had at no time during his illness been confined to his bed, and had even for some weeks anticipated by an hour his usual time of rising. There was much in the King’s language and manner this morning, which bespoke his sense of approaching death. On awaking, he observed to the Queen, “ I shall get up once more

to do the business of the country ;" and when being wheeled in his chair from his bed-room to his dressing-room, he turned round, and looking with a benign and gracious smile on the Queen's attendants, who were standing in tears near the door, said, " God bless you !" and waved his hand.

At nine o'clock, by the desire of the Queen, who was naturally anxious that the hope so fervently expressed by the King on the preceding night might be gratified as soon as possible, the Archbishop entered the King's room, and was received, as at all other times, with the significant tokens of joy and thankfulness, which his Grace's presence never failed to call forth.

On this occasion the Archbishop read the service for the Visitation of the Sick. The King was seated, as usual, in his easy chair ; the Queen affectionately kneeling

by his side, making the responses, and assisting him to turn over the leaves of the large Prayer Book, which was placed before him. His Majesty's demeanour was characterised by the most genuine spirit of devotion. Though unable to join audibly in the responses which occur in the service, yet, when the Archbishop had rehearsed the articles of our creed, His Majesty, in the fulness of his faith, and labouring to collect all the energies of sinking nature, enunciated with distinct and solemn emphasis the words, "All this I stedfastly believe."

During the whole service His Majesty retained hold of the Queen's hand, and in the absence of physical strength to give utterance to his feelings, signified, by his fervent pressure of it, not only his humble acquiescence in the doctrines of our holy faith, but his grateful acknowledgment of those

promises of grace and succour which so many passages of this affecting portion of the Liturgy hold out to the dying Christian, and the belief of which His Majesty so thankfully appreciated in this his hour of need.

With the other hand His Majesty frequently covered his eyes and pressed his brow, as if to concentrate all his powers of devotion, and to restrain the warmer emotions of his heart, which were so painfully excited by the distress of those who surrounded him. His Majesty did not allow the Archbishop to withdraw without the usual significant expression of his gratitude, "A thousand, thousand thanks."

It was when the Archbishop pronounced the solemn and truly affecting form of blessing contained in the service for the Visitation of the Sick, that the Queen for the first time

in His Majesty's apartments was over-powered by the weight of her affliction. The King observed her emotion, and said, in a tone of kind encouragement, "Bear up—bear up."

At the conclusion of the prayers His Majesty saw all his children, and as they successively knelt to kiss his hand, gave them his blessing in the most affectionate terms, and suitable to the character and circumstances of each. They had all manifested the most truly filial affection to His Majesty during his illness; but on Lady Mary Fox, the eldest of His Majesty's surviving daughters, had chiefly devolved the painful, yet consolatory duty of assisting the Queen in her attendance on the King.

The extreme caution of His Majesty, and his anxiety to avoid causing any pain or alarm to the Queen, was very remarkable.

He never alluded in distinct terms to his death in Her Majesty's presence. It was about this period of the day that he tenderly besought Her Majesty not to make herself uneasy about him ; but that he was already anticipating his speedy dissolution, was evident from his expressions to several of his relatives.

Even at this advanced stage of his disease, and under circumstances of the most distressing debility, the King had never wholly intermitted his attention to public business. In accordance with his usual habits, he had this morning frequently desired to be told when the clock struck half-past ten, about which time His Majesty uniformly gave audience to Sir Herbert Taylor. At eleven, when Sir Herbert was announced, the King said, " Give me your hand.\* Now get the things

\* For many years the King had discontinued giving his

ready." On Sir Herbert saying that he had no papers to-day, His Majesty appeared surprised, till Sir Herbert added, "It is Monday, sire ; there is no post, and no boxes are come;" when he replied, "Ah, true—I had forgot." The Queen then named Sir Henry Wheatley, who had entered the apartment. The King regarded him with a gracious look, and extended his hand to him, as he did also to Dr. Davies, evidently influenced by the same motive which had prompted a similar action to Sir Herbert Taylor—a last acknowledgment of their faithful services.

His Majesty then passed several hours in a state of not uneasy slumber; the Queen almost uninterruptedly kneeling by his side, hand familiarly to any one, and from this deviation from his usual practice Sir Herbert inferred that His Majesty intended to take leave of him.

and gently chafing his hand, from which assurance of her presence His Majesty derived the greatest comfort.

During this afternoon, to such an extremity of weakness was the King reduced, that he scarcely opened his eyes, save to raise them in prayer to Heaven with a look expressive of the most perfect resignation. Once or twice indeed this feeling found expression in the words "Thy will be done;" and on one occasion he was heard to pronounce the words, "The church—the church!" and the name of the Archbishop.

It was about nine o'clock in the evening of this day that the Archbishop visited the King for the last time. His Majesty's state altogether incapacitated him from joining in any act or exercise of devotion; but, as at each preceding interview, His Grace's presence proved a source of joy and consolation to the dying Monarch, who strove in vain

to convey any audible acknowledgments of the blessings which he sensibly enjoyed ; but when, on leaving the room, the Archbishop said, " My best prayers are offered up for your Majesty," the King replied, with slow and feeble yet distinct utterance, " Believe me, I am a religious man." After this exertion, His Majesty gently waved his hand in token of his last farewell, and the Archbishop withdrew.

As the night advanced, a more rapid diminution of His Majesty's vital powers was perceptible. His weakness now rendered it impracticable to remove him into his usual bed-room, and a bed was accordingly prepared in the royal closet, which communicates with the apartment in which His Majesty had passed the last ten days of his life. At half-past ten, the King was seized with a fainting fit, the effects of which were mistaken by many for the stroke of death.

However, His Majesty gradually, though imperfectly, revived, and was then removed into his bed.

From this time his voice was not heard, except to pronounce the name of his valet. In less than an hour His Majesty expired, without a struggle and without a groan; the Queen kneeling at the bedside, and still affectionately holding his hand, the comfortable warmth of which rendered her unwilling to believe the reality of the sad event.

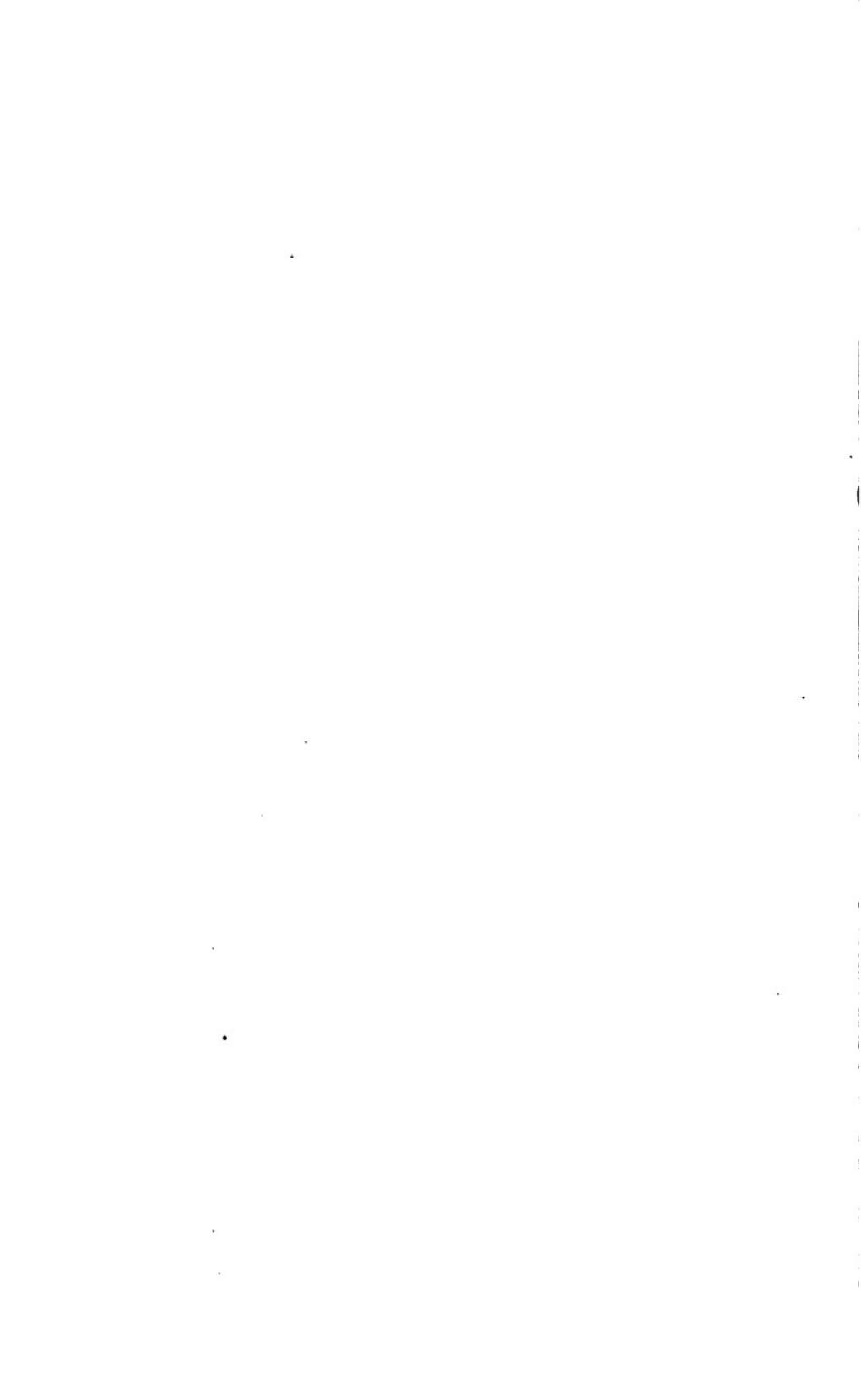
Thus expired, in the 73rd year of his age, in firm reliance on the merits of his Redeemer, KING WILLIAM THE FOURTH, a just and upright king, a forgiving enemy, a sincere friend, and a most gracious and indulgent master.

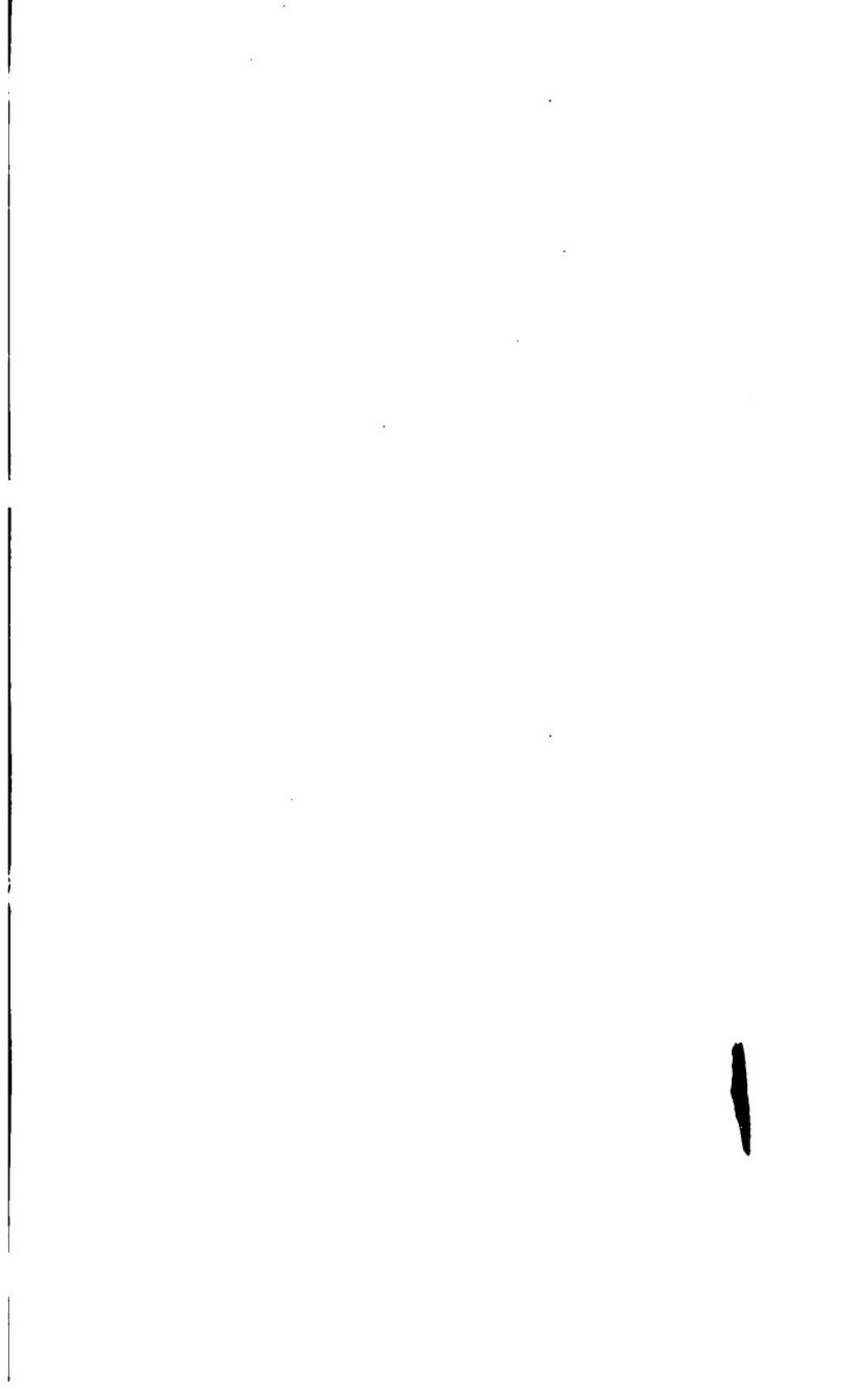
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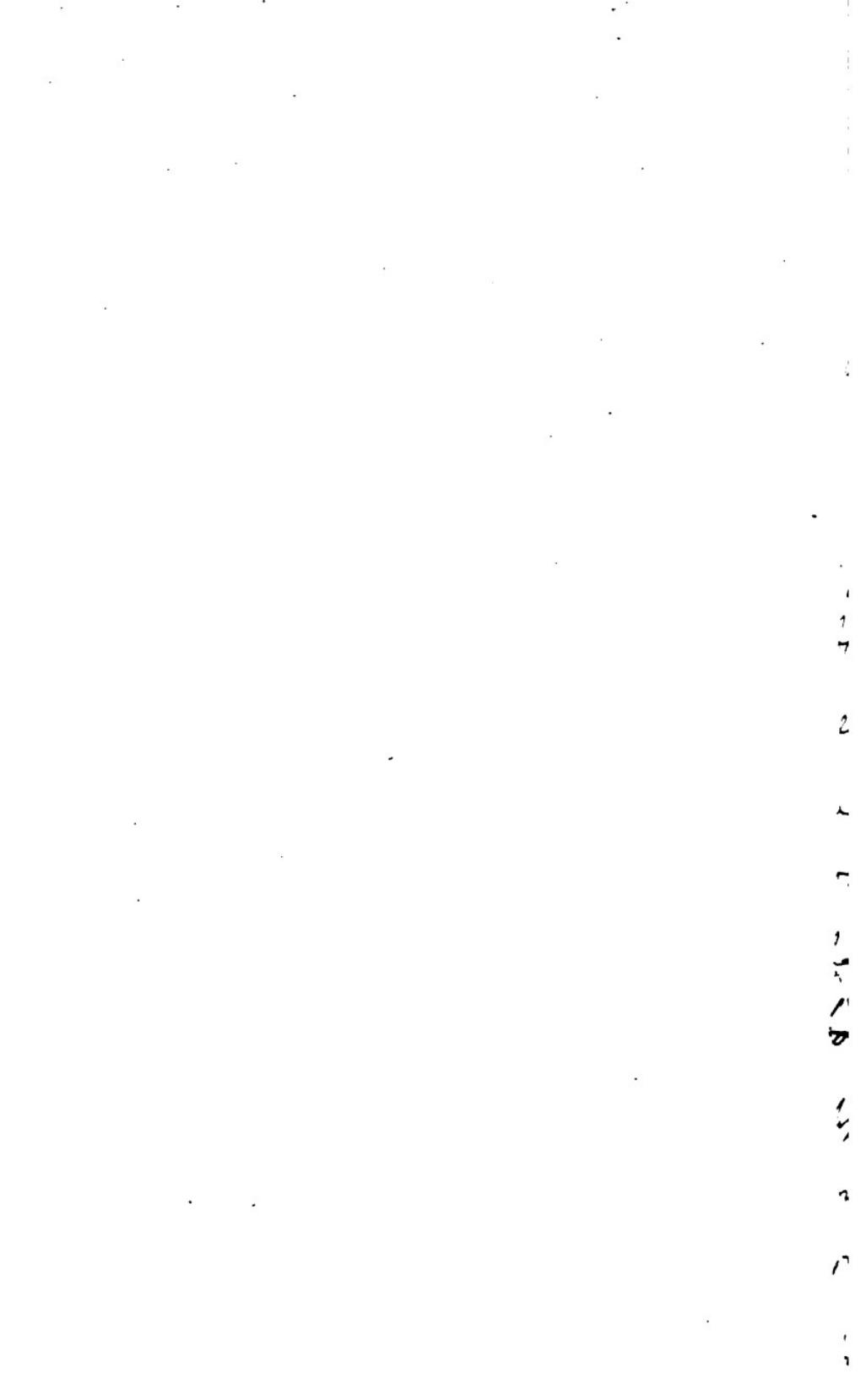
*Bushy House,*  
*July 14th, 1837.*

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I have the pleasure to say

Falrnock 1 May 1837

Dear Sir

I enclose & transm<sup>it</sup>  
a private copy of Mr Fox's  
Observations on Mineral  
caves about to appear in  
a Transactions of a Crustal  
Society. You will perceive  
of the labors of the Geological  
~~Society~~  
~~they~~ are deeply interesting  
printed by those <sup>see note page 11</sup> ~~now work~~  
impudent to judge - below  
is my dear Sir  
Yours very truly  
W. F. D. Allen

W. Fox.

W. F. D. Allen



SP

